MAN LIVES MONEY-FREE FOR A YEAR, PG 18

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Entertainment

Year-end nod for Taylor Swift

pg 24

Deadline looms for students

APPLICATIONS Many Ontario high school students will spend the holidays submitting their university applications to the Ontario Universities' Application Centre.

The deadline for sending in applications to be guaranteed full consideration by universities in the province is Jan. 13.

Guidance counsellor Renee Rawlins at Sir Wilfrid Laurier Collegiate Institute in Toronto says there can be stiff competition to get into some university programs. She says business and engineering programs are more competitive than bachelor of arts programs, and require students to have marks in the mid-80s to 90s to get accepted.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News on the Move

What's this barcode for?

Learn how to scan the barcode with the instructions at the top of pg 3

World pg 12

Chaos in Iran's streets

Workology pg 21

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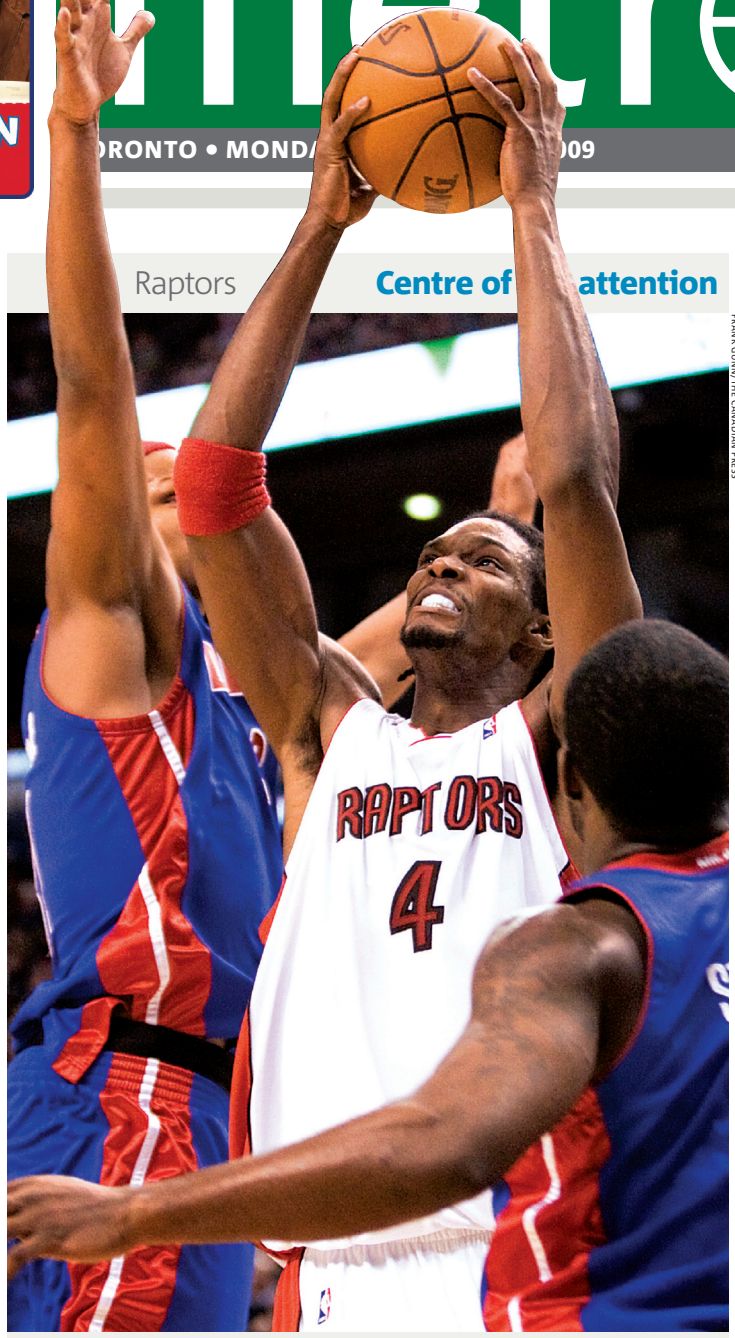
Raptors **Centre of attention**



FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Toronto Raptors Chris Bosh drives between Detroit Pistons Charlie Villanueva, left, and Rodney Stuckey during yesterday's NBA game at the ACC. Bosh knocked down 25 points and grabbed 16 rebounds to lead the Raptors to a season-high fourth consecutive win, 102-95 over the Pistons.
Link to exclusive Raptors game report and highlights, see the top of page 20.

Ripple effect

New U.S. security measures cause long delays at Pearson

New restrictions on U.S.-bound flights caused "very significant" delays and headaches for travellers at Canada's busiest airport yesterday.

New regulations imposed after an apparent terror attack was thwarted Christmas Day led to "a tough day" at Pearson International Airport, a spokeswoman said.

Trish Krale, with the Greater Toronto Airports Authority, said there were "very significant delays," mostly felt by people flying to the U.S.

Umar Farouk Abdulmutalla, a 23-year-old Nigerian man, who claimed ties to al-Qaida, was charged Saturday with trying to destroy a Detroit-bound airliner.

Many U.S.-bound flights were delayed by at least one or two hours and in some cases up to four or five hours.

Among the stricter regulations are: Passengers can't have anything on their lap; no moving around the flight cabin in the final hour before landing; and only one carry-on bag is allowed.

FRANK GUNN PHOTOS/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Thousands of passengers bound for the U.S., top, wait in lineups yesterday due to security delays, while domestic and international travelling passengers arrive to non-existent lineups at Pearson airport.

More than 120 flights were listed as cancelled as of early last night, which accounts for almost 12 per cent of the total daily flights at Pearson.

Officials were asking travellers to leave plenty of extra time, to check their flight status before leaving home and to be patient.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

MORE COVERAGE, PAGES 12, 16

H1N1 picked as Canada's top news story of 2009

An influenza virus that scientists believe migrated from pigs to people before touching off a global pandemic was the runaway selection for the top Canadian news story of 2009.

The H1N1 virus was chosen by 70 per cent of the newspaper editors and broadcast news directors in the annual year-end survey of newsrooms conducted by The Canadian Press.

"There isn't a Canadian out there who isn't affected by or interested in the virus and how it may affect their families," said Sandy Heimlich-Hall, assistant news director at CFJC-TV in Kamloops, B.C.

H1N1, also known as swine flu, was the runaway pick. The inquiry into the tragic death of Robert Dziekanski, who died after being Tasered by RCMP officers at Vancouver International Airport, was second with nine per cent of the vote. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Breakdown of votes for year's top story

- Results of the annual survey of newspaper editors and broadcasters conducted by The Canadian Press to determine Canada's top news story of the year for 2009:
- **H1N1 (swine) flu**: 70 per cent
- **Dziekanski inquiry**: 9 per cent
- **Afghanistan mission**: 7 per cent
- **Economy bounces back**: 6 per cent
- **Corruption in Montreal**: 3 per cent
- **Liberal party woes**: 2 per cent
- **NHL off-ice battles, Obama visits Canada, Olympic fever, Vancouver gang wars**: Less than 1 per cent

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Local

Musician in town to promote Islam

Thousands of Muslims — including singer Yusuf Islam (formerly Cat Stevens), left — were in Toronto this weekend for the largest Islamic conference in Canada. About 17,000 people were expected to attend the three-day Reviving the Islamic Spirit convention at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre. The eighth annual conference bills itself as a way for young Muslims to build ties within their faith and across cultural lines. The conference ended yesterday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Lawrence Martin gives us his take on the Canadian political scene.

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WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

Video A program that pays Afghans for damage caused by troops hailed as "phenomenal" counter-insurgency at **metronews.ca/canada**

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Facebook users growing with age

2009: The year that defined social networking's mass appeal

Social networking was arguably the most influential technology of 2009 in Canada and around the world, largely because it's not just for teenagers and college kids anymore.

It's become cliché for younger social networking users to cringe and whine as their parents and grandparents join their favourite web community, but older users now represent the fastest growing demographic on sites like Facebook.

A study in August by marketing agency iStrategyLabs suggested the number of new Facebook users aged 55 and older grew by almost 514 per cent in the previous six months, compared to 4.8 per cent growth among 18- to 24-year-olds.

"Facebook users now are people who are much older, people who are retirees or who are in their 50s, 60s, and they're starting to use Facebook as a primary means of communication," said Amy Webb, a consultant and chief executive of Webbmedia Group.

She said 2009 can be defined as the year that social networking truly hit mass awareness on a mainstream level, particularly for Twitter, which has been around since 2006, but just became a household name this year.

Social networking is bound to become even more popular in 2010 as more consumers upgrade to smartphones and log on everywhere they go — and on the way there, said Melanie Dempsey, an assistant professor of marketing at Ryerson University's Ted Rogers School of Business Management.

"When I'm walking down the street I'm always trying to look out for people walking into me because they've all got their heads down, texting people," said Dempsey, who co-authored a recent paper on viral marketing which explores online behaviour.

Social networking sites have had a massive impact on the way people use the Internet and they've become the primary mode of messaging for some.

"What I'm really finding with young people is they consider email something that old people do," Dempsey said.

"But everyone is connecting and age is no barrier."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

The social networking site Facebook login webpage is seen on a computer screen in Ottawa in this August 2009 file photo. Research focused in the U.S. suggests Facebook generally draws those with higher education and social status.

OLG settles suit for more than $700,000

The former head of the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corp. has settled her lawsuit against the provincial government in a deal that will cost taxpayers almost three quarters of a million dollars. Kelly McDougald, who was suing the government for wrongful dismissal, has reached an out-of-court cash settlement worth $747,925, the lottery corporation said Thursday.

The deal was negotiated with the help of Justice Coulter Osborne, a retired judge who was once the province's integrity commissioner.

Details of the settlement were not released.

She had been seeking $8.4 million, claiming she was fired because she refused to terminate other executives to create a public scapegoat.

McDougald, whose annual salary was $400,000, was fired with cause as CEO Aug. 31, the same day the Liberals released thousands of pages of what were deemed "unacceptable" expense claims filed by lottery executives.

The OLG board resigned the same day. The government called in the auditor general to determine if any rules were broken when executives billed taxpayers for expensive dinners, memberships to Weight Watchers and even a $1.12 grocery bag.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

McDougald's suit

- In her suit, filed about two weeks after the termination, Kelly McDougald claimed breach of contract, moral and punitive damages, defamation and "loss of opportunity to enhance reputation."

News in brief

THEFT A mother and her young son are unhurt after a middle-aged man stole their van while they were sitting in the back seat early yesterday. The woman was out with her husband who was stocking newspaper boxes near Jane Street and Weston Road around 4 a.m. When he stepped out of the van, the thief jumped in and drove off. When he discovered his unwitting passengers, the thief stopped the vehicle to let them out, and then took off. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Crash injures cops

Two Toronto police officers received minor injuries in a crash with a minivan while on their way to a bank robbery call last week. THE CANADIAN PRESS

HST: Cure-all or tax grab?

Touted as a panacea for Ontario's ailing economy, but condemned by others as the biggest cash grab in the province's history, the harmonized sales tax will likely have more than a few people scratching their heads when it takes effect next July.

Merging the eight per cent Ontario sales tax with the five per cent federal GST will increase the cost of many items that were previously exempt from the provincial levy: From gasoline to Internet bills, haircuts and real estate fees.

It's also part of a larger package that includes one-time relief cheques, new credits and income tax cuts, which makes the math more complicated. So who will be the winners and losers?

Lower and middle-income earners, as well as anyone buying a home for less than $500,000, will benefit the most from the changes, experts say.

Wealthy people will end up being taxed more because they tend to spend more money, and First Nations say they'll be worse off because they can't keep their point-of-sale exemption from the provincial portion of the new 13 per cent tax.

Ontario's move toward the merged tax, bitterly opposed by the Progressive Conservatives and New Democrats, sees the province join Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland and Labrador in the national HST club. British Columbia is also set to harmonize its tax July 1.

Ontario's opposition parties point to the cost hike of items like gasoline in arguing the HST is going to kick people when they're already down because of the recession.

But if you look at how the HST will make businesses more competitive, the argument could be made everyone will end up a winner, said TD economist Don Drummond.

"It's a bit more of an indirect route, but I would argue that would end up as a win-win for not just business, but for households as well."
Don Drummond, TD economist

Many businesses that have long advocated for harmonization say it will slash costs by reducing red tape and will eliminate goods being taxed multiple times at different stages of production.

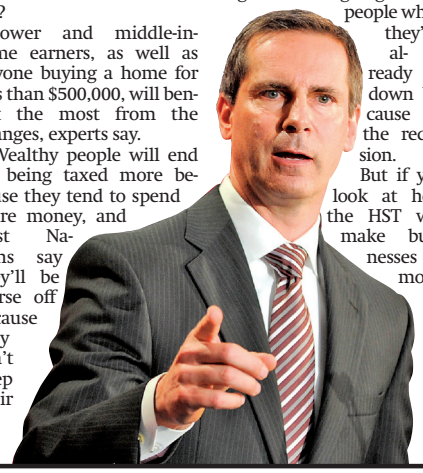
Instead, businesses would get a rebate on the taxes paid at each stage along the supply chain, which would lower the costs and pre-tax prices of many goods.

"It's a bit more of an indirect route, but I would argue that would end up as a win-win for not just business, but for households as well," Drummond said.

TD predicts businesses will likely pass the majority of the tax savings on to consumers. It could take a while in some cases, as businesses with over $10 million in annual sales can't claim the credits for five years.

Consumers can receive government cheques of up to $1,000 for families and $300 for individuals in the first year of the HST to offset the pain, said Revenue Minister John Wilkinson.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Previously exempt items to be subjected to tax harmonization

Ontario will create a 13-per-cent harmonized sales tax next July by merging the provincial sales tax with the five-per-cent GST.

Here is a list of items and services that were previously exempted from the PST, but will now rise eight per cent because of the HST:

- Electricity, home heating fuels, gasoline, tobacco, Internet access fees, professional services such as legal accounting and real estate fees and personal services such as hair cuts and dry cleaning.

Here is a list of items that are exempt from the HST:

- Basic groceries, child care services, municipal water, most health-care services, certain medical devices, most educational services, municipal public transportation, auto insurance, mortgage interest costs, residential rent, prescription drugs, pharmacist dispensing fees, music lessons, and adult incontinence products.

Here is a list of items that will be exempt from Ontario's eight-per-cent portion of the HST:

- Books, children's clothing and footwear, child car booster seats, diapers, feminine hygiene products, print newspapers, and prepared foods costing under $4.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

DILEMMA Cuts to program spending, asset sales and even the possibility of "Dalton Days" haven't been ruled out in 2010 as Ontario struggles to chip away at a $25-billion deficit that critics say the province has no clear idea how to handle. Experts agree there are only two options for the Liberal government as it tries to come to grips with its record deficit: Increase taxes or decrease services. But the province has floated several other options in recent months, from the possibility of selling off public assets such as Hydro One to unpaid days off for civil servants. To some, the flip flops are a sign of a government that doesn't have a clear sense of how to move forward.

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Cops investigating after man found dead in motel

Toronto police are investigating the death of a man whose body was found in a motel room Saturday. The man, believed to be in his mid-40s, was staying at the Hav-A-Nap Motel on Kingston Road near Brimley Road. His roommates called emergency crews around 3 p.m. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Fill up your e-reader at the public library

8,000 ebooks available on library's website

So you got an e-reader over the holidays, but it's still just a pretty paperweight since you haven't downloaded any content on it yet.

Amazon and Sony have their own ebook stores, Kobobooks.com has a good selection of Canadian titles, and there are websites like Project Gutenberg that host tens of thousands of free-to-download public domain classics from the likes of Jane Austen, Charles Dickens and Miguel de Cervantes.

Jane Pyper

But there's another option that most readers might not consider: Their local library.

The ebook collections are still limited but there's no doubt they will grow considerably in the years ahead, librarians say.

"We see it at this stage as a small but growing segment of our (collection)," said Jane Pyper, chief librarian for the Toronto Public Library, which is considered the largest public library network in Canada and the busiest in North America.

Toronto residents can access about 8,000 ebooks through the library's website and were on track to have checked out 150,000 e-titles by the end of 2009, she said.

In terms of buying new content for the library system, Pyper noted that for this year's most hyped book, Dan Brown's The Lost Symbol, 800 print copies were purchased versus just 15 ebook copies and 15 electronic audiobook copies. As of this week, more than 1,500 library users are on the waiting list for the print version, while there were almost 50 holds on the ebook and e-audiobook versions.

Librarians say it's particularly frustrating that the Kindle — which so many readers are eager to buy — won't read library ebooks.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

ROM Earth Rangers invade museum

BILL METCALFE/FOR METRO TORONTO

Earth Ranger Kati Vanruyven is seen with Cosmo, a ring-tailed lemur, at a recent practice for live shows at the Royal Ontario Museum. The Earth Rangers live animal shows will run daily as part of ROM for the Holidays until Jan. 3. For more information on the shows, go to rom.on.ca.

Murder conviction in drowning case overturned

COURTS A woman found guilty of drowning her autistic four-year-old daughter had that conviction overturned on Thursday and a new trial ordered by Ontario's highest court.

Xuan Peng was sentenced in 2008 to life in prison with no chance of parole for 10 years after being found guilty of second-degree murder.

The girl's father, David Chen, found his daughter, Scarlett, unconscious on July 12, 2004, in a bathtub at their Toronto townhouse.

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17 GTA LOCATIONS INCLUDING CENTRES IN VAUGHAN, MARKHAM AND PICKERING

U.S. adding to consular staff for 2010 Winter Games

The U.S. is tripling its consular staff in Vancouver and opening an outpost in Whistler, B.C., in anticipation of the thousands of Americans coming to the 2010 Winter Games. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada

Fallen soldier returns home today

The remains of a Canadian soldier who was killed during a foot patrol in Afghanistan will be returned to Canada today. The repatriation ceremony for Lt. Andrew Nuttall, left, will happen at 2 p.m. at CFB Trenton in eastern Ontario. Nuttall, from Prince Rupert, B.C., was killed Wednesday by an improvised explosive device during a routine foot patrol in the Panjwaii district of southern Afghanistan. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Bracing for the unexpected

Officials keep fallback plans in mind for Olympic security

VANCOUVER 2010 Games

A famous 19th-century German general said no battle plan survives first contact with the enemy, a maxim that described warfare but could easily apply to another deeply complex human endeavour, the Olympics.

Helmuth von Moltke wasn't suggesting plans were useless, but they have to take unforeseen events into account.

When it comes to the Games, that's especially true of security arrangements, where the stakes can be much higher than a traffic tie-up or a botched TV broadcast. The massacre of Israeli athletes at the 1972 Munich Summer Olympics demonstrated that.

The Olympics are perhaps the most complicated regularly staged event on Earth and its multi-layered aspect can create frictions.

Prof. Scott Decker, director of Arizona State University's criminology school, studied Olympic security arrangements at close quarters at the 1996 Atlanta Summer Games and the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City.

At Atlanta, Decker learned the all-powerful organizing committee intervened to reduce the sensitivity of the airport-style magnatometers used to screen spectators heading into the opening ceremonies.

It was apparently taking too long to clear the 78,000 attendees. Officials worried the spectacle would be delayed, pushing the climactic torch-lighting by boxing great Muhammad Ali out of the prime-time TV window.

"So the Atlanta Games hadn't even formally begun and the security plan was ditched," Decker recalled.

At Salt Lake City, the U.S. Secret Service brought in a radio-communications system the Salt Lake County Sheriff's Office had already demonstrated would not work in the city's mountainous terrain.

"The federal communication connection did not function well, not only in the mountain venues, it didn't function in the downtown venues," said Salt Lake police Chief Chris Burbank, who commanded the sprawling downtown Olympic venue in 2002.

"My plan was the federal people were paired with local people who had radio access that worked, so we never put them out of communication."

The problem underscores the need for fallback plans, said Burbank, who consulted on Vancouver's early security planning.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Bomb blast

- Perhaps the biggest security letdown at recent Games was the Centennial Olympic Park bomb blast in Atlanta that took two lives and injured dozens in 1996. The bomb, placed by an anti-abortion militant, was hidden in a backpack left in the park used for free public events.

DAVE CHIDLEY/THE CANADIAN PRESS

The Vancouver 2010 Olympic torch and Santa visit with Logan Gilbert, 2, Christmas morning at the London Children's Hospital, in London, Ont. Logan just received a liver transplant.

Protesters give torch noisy welcome in Kitchener

VANCOUVER 2010 Games

RELAY Holding banners, banging drums and chanting "No Olympics on stolen Native land," a 200-strong group of protesters greeted the Olympic Torch when it arrived yesterday evening for a celebration at City Hall in Kitchener, Ont.

"The (International Olympic Committee and Vancouver organizers) are trying to use the Olympics as a way of white-washing the colonial image of Canada," said Mark Corbiere of Kitchener, a member of the Olympics Resistance Network Ontario, the Record.com reported.

"The issues of Native poverty haven't been dealt with," Corbiere said.

Police said no arrests were made.

Earlier, the activist group AW@L said it expected about 100 people to attend what it billed as a family friendly rally, march and demonstration.

AW@L spokesperson Dan Kellar alleged the Vancouver Olympics are connected to injustices regarding Native land rights, the environment, the economy, and homelessness, while at the same time are being used to falsely glorify Canada's image on these same fronts.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Follow the Olympic torch's journey with an interactive map at metronews.ca/sports

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Despite the steady recovery, some experts predict a decade of joblessness and flat wages ahead. Scan this barcode for the full story.

News in brief

PIPELINE More than three years after its original deadline, a review panel will finally table its report on the environmental and social effects of the Northwest Territories' Mackenzie Valley gas pipeline this week. It will go before a federal cabinet, which can accept or reject its recommendations.

RELOCATIONS Many residents have packed up and left the flood-prone stretch of the Red River north of Winnipeg. The region was hard-hit last spring as ice jams caused widespread flooding. It was the final straw for municipal leaders in the area, who have spent the ensuing months trying to coax people to move. THE CANADIAN PRESS

London Gotta have that java

DAVE CHIDLEY/THE CANADIAN PRESS

More than 25 cars line up in the drive-thru for Christmas morning coffee at one of the few businesses open Friday in London, Ont.

Second woman dies after Christmas Eve fire

New charges are likely for an Ottawa man already charged with second degree murder after a second woman died in a Christmas Eve apartment fire. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Cash for damage key to Canada's strategy

One of Canada's best bangs for its counter-insurgency buck is a low-key, low-cost program that compensates Afghans when Canadian soldiers wreck property or injure civilians during military operations.

While generally modest, the payments are an important part of Canada's strategy of trying to reassure ordinary Afghans that Canadian forces are there to help.

"It's a phenomenal counter to the insurgents' information campaign that we don't care about the civilian population, that we're here as an occupying and invading force," said Lt.-Cmdr. Mike McCarthy, a legal officer.

"We actively show the people that we do in fact care very much about them."

One day a week, aggrieved Afghans show up at the gate of Camp Nathan Smith in Kandahar city — Canada's military-civilian outreach base — to press their claims.

Most are for crop damage. Canadian light armoured vehicles, tanks and other military vehicles are frequently forced off-road by the threat of improvised explosive devices.

The result can be flattened grape or wheat fields and damaged walls that enclose every field and compound in districts such as Panjwaii or Arghandab, which are rich farming areas.

Claims for crop damage typically run around $1,800 to $2,000.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Claims

- The compensation program has received about a thousand individual claims in recent years, many for vehicle damage, and shelled out in the low millions — considered a drop in the military bucket.

Ottawa **Protest for human rights**

RAMZI HAIDAR/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Hassan Hamed, 9, and Nasser Hmaidan, 11, talk at the Human Rights monument prior to a gathering of activists in Ottawa yesterday to mark the first anniversary of the start of Israel's deadliest offensive in Gaza which killed over 1,400 Palestinians. More coverage, page 13.

Up to 50 Tamil migrants in B.C. soon to be released: Lawyer

IMMIGRATION About 50 Tamil migrants taken into custody off B.C.'s West Coast will soon be released and allowed to settle with their families already living across the country, says an immigration lawyer representing several of the men.

Immigration officials will be working through the holidays to process many of the men held in detention for two months after arriving on the Ocean Lady freighter in October, said Narindar Kang.

"The writing is on the wall and we're just waiting to schedule a date," he said Friday.

The ship was intercepted in Canadian waters on Oct. 17 after crossing the Pacific from Sri Lanka. The group claims they were fleeing persecution after the country's bloody 26-year civil war.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Restrictions

- The migrants will be released on restrictions, including bonds in the range of $2,000 to $10,000, and requirements to report weekly and not associate with terrorist groups.

Power outages hit eastern Ontario

WEATHER Hydro One crews were working yesterday to restore widespread power outages in eastern Ontario.

The Ottawa area was hard hit, with more than 5,000 customers affected in the Vankleek Hill area and more than 1,200 affected in the Winchester area.

Spokeswoman Marylena Stea said the outages are due to trees and heavy snow falling on power lines.

About another 7,000 customers in the Cobden, Tweed, Arnprior and Perth areas are also in the dark.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Suicide attack claims five in Pakistan

A suicide bomber detonated his explosives outside a large gathering of Shiite Muslims in the capital of Pakistan-controlled Kashmir yesterday, killing five people and wounding 80, said police. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World

Record for paper plane flight

Japanese paper airplane virtuoso Takuo Toda set a world record yesterday for a hand-launched plane made with only paper. Toda, flying a 10-centimetre-long craft of his own design, made 10 attempts to break his own record of 27.9 seconds set earlier this year in Hiroshima, but failed to best his previous mark, settling for a 26.1-second flight. That was still the best ever recorded for a strictly paper-only craft. His 27.9-second record was set with a plane that had tape on it. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pope continuing busy schedule

VATICAN CITY Pope Benedict XVI waded into a crowd of well-wishers in Rome yesterday, just days after he was knocked down by a woman at a Christmas Eve Mass. It was the 82-year-old pontiff's first appearance outside the Vatican since the attack, which left him unhurt but raised security concerns. The pope has kept up his holiday schedule despite the incident, in which a woman jumped a barricade in St. Peter's Basilica and pulled the pope to the ground as she was taken down by guards.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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SCANLIFE

The botched attack on a U.S. Airline has raised concerns about al-Qaida gaining strength in Yemen. Scan this barcode for the full story.

Violence erupts in Iran

Nephew of opposition leader Mousavi reportedly killed

Iranian security forces fired on stone-throwing protesters in the centre of Tehran yesterday in one of the bloodiest confrontations in months, opposition websites and witnesses said. At least five people were killed.

Some accounts of the violence were vivid and detailed, but they could not be independently confirmed because of government restrictions on media coverage. Police, who denied using firearms, said dozens of officers were injured and more than 300 protesters were arrested.

The dead included a nephew of opposition leader Mir Hossein Mousavi, according to Mousavi's website, Kaleme.ir. The clashes were sure to deepen antagonism between the government and a reform movement that has shown resilience in the face of repeated crackdowns.

The street chaos coincided with Shiite Islam's most important observance, Ashoura, fuelling protesters' defiance with its message of sacrifice and dignity in the face of coercion.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

This photo, taken by an individual not employed by the Associated Press and obtained by the AP outside Iran, shows Iranian protesters blocking a road yesterday during an anti-government protest in Tehran.

Malfunctioning explosive may have saved aircraft

SECURITY The Obama administration promised yesterday to review security procedures at airports and the government's system for checking suspicious travellers after an alleged terrorist bent on destroying a jetliner came close to succeeding.

An apparent malfunction in a device designed to detonate the high-explosive PETN may have been all that saved the 278 passengers and the crew aboard Northwest Flight 253 to Detroit from Amsterdam Christmas Day. No undercover air marshal was on board and passengers subdued the suspect, Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab, 23, of Nigeria.

Abdulmutallab was hospitalized with burns from the attack and was released yesterday to the custody of marshals, who would not reveal where he was being held.

Abdulmutallab was on a watch list, but not one that denied him passage by air into the U.S. His own father had discussed concerns about his radical religious views with U.S. officials in Nigeria before the attack.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Same flight

- Officials say a man removed from a flight yesterday to Detroit posed no security risk to the plane. The passenger was taken into custody after becoming verbally disruptive. The incident occurred on board the same Northwest Airlines flight from Amsterdam that was attacked Christmas Day.

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White Oaks Mall
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(1) See store for details. Bonus gift available with new activations only. While quantities last. (2) Subject to approved credit.

Family pleads with China not to execute British man
Two cousins of a British man who is due to be executed in China this week for drug trafficking arrived in the country yesterday to plead for his life, an activist group said. Akmal Shaikh, a father of three, is scheduled to be executed tomorrow. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Weather creates tragic U.S. holiday weekend

Snow and rain storms that have battered much of the U.S. for days have started subsiding, leaving behind concerns about flooding in some areas.

Storms dumped 60.7 centimetres of snow in Grand Forks, N.D. In the East, higher temperatures and rains have started melting and washing away last week's record-setting snowfalls, threatening the region with flooding.

The U.S. National Weather Service also issued flood warnings for parts of the South and Midwest, and winter weather advisories were in effect in sections of Nebraska, Illinois Indiana and Michigan through yesterday. Winter weather has been blamed for more than 20 deaths across the country in the past week.

One of the latest was an 81-year-old Iowa man whose body was found in a ditch Friday after his pickup truck got stuck in the snow and he tried to walk home. A woman and her daughter in Pennsylvania were rescued from a rain-swollen creek after their SUV went off the road Saturday. Rescue workers found the 14-year-old clinging to a log; her mother was trapped in the vehicle. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Washington **Flooded airport causes delays**

JACQUELYN MARTIN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A line forms at security for US Airways flights at Reagan National Airport in Washington, D.C. yesterday. A broken pipe flooded the US Airways terminal and baggage claim Saturday night, causing cancellations and delays.

News in brief

GAZA Hamas loyalists marked the one-year anniversary of Israel's devastating war against Gaza's Islamic militant rulers with defiant protests and a moment of silence yesterday even as most of the territory's residents ignored commemoration events. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Comment

Be nice, clear your ice

InTransit

Ed Drass

metronews.ca/intransit

Big snowstorms have been bypassing Toronto and hitting regions to the north and south — but get the shovels ready.

For cities to be walking-friendly and accessible, we all have to take responsibility for keeping sidewalks free of snow and ice. Governments clear much of the white stuff, but not all — and not immediately.

Depending on where you live, the municipality plows roads and sidewalks within specified periods of time after a snowfall. In the past, roadside transit stops were a low priority for GTA cleanup crews, but that may be improving. For example, Mississauga recently committed to clearing the areas where buses load and unload within 24 hours, down from 36.

Toronto's time limit for bus stops is 72 hours. Senior transportation manager Peter Noehammer says most are done within two days.

If you think municipal authorities have forgotten to clear a transit stop — including near train stations — please report it.

Alas, getting to transit from one's front door is even tougher when owners along local streets haven't done their bit. This is especially critical in parts of 416 where sidewalks are too narrow for civic plows to reach.

Before being amalgamated, the old City of Toronto reminded residents of their duty to clear snow from the front walk so neighbours could pass safely. See YouTube for "Clear Your Ice" commercials.

Information

- Residents of Mississauga, Toronto and other areas can now get details on snow clearing by dialing 311 — or consult your Blue Pages and municipal websites.

Now, city hall barely mentions the topic, and thereby fails its citizens. Navigating slippery sidewalks is no simple task, particularly for the elderly and those who use mobility aids. A heavy snowfall forces some to stay at home for long periods.

Claiming tight budgets, Noehammer says a new "Clear Your Ice" campaign is a good idea, but costly. And yet the city does spend money on advertising and has in-house publicity tools — such as free poster space in bus shelters.

I've asked Toronto officials about this for years. Last week, Noehammer said of the shelter ads: "We didn't do it this year, but it is something we will be putting forward" as a communications priority.

Instead, official statements about timelines for clearing your walk (within 12 hours of a snowfall) and fines for not doing so ($105) are buried in press releases or the official site toronto.ca — search under "snow."

Toronto, it's time to get off your tush and make sidewalks safer.

Toronto-based transport writer Ed Drass covers transit issues every Monday; transit@eddrass.com.

Views

Time-honoured traditions of Slack Week

HineSight

Anne Hines

metronews.ca/hinesight

Last year I wrote a column declaring the week between Christmas and the new year "Sucks to Be Working Week." It seemed to me that, for those of us who still have to work while everyone else gets time off, this week ... well ... sucks.

Boy was I wrong. Here's a sample of the messages I received:

Dear Anne:

Sucks to be working? Are you kidding? My boss is in Florida and I'm watching every season of The Tudors on my office PC.

Dear Anne:

This is the best week of the year to work retail. Customers are too exhausted from the holiday rush to be demanding and we finally get to stop playing the Christmas CD that's been on since mid-September.

Dear Anne:

I love working between Christmas and the new year. Three-hour lunches and all the leftover Christmas goodies we can eat!

So, to recognize the real nature of these few days when only half of us still have to show up for work, I am renaming this "Slack Week."

Here are some time-honoured traditions of Slack Week that stretch back to 10 minutes ago when I made them up.

Slack Week prayers: It is customary during this week to stop for a few minutes and count your job-related blessings. For some, this may be limited to "I have one." But, these days, that's worth celebrating.

Popular Slack Week activities: The festive Office Scavenger Hunt. The first worker to collect a stapler, scotch tape dispenser, annoying cartoon and a diet bar from the desks of vacationing colleagues wins the right to send a message on someone else's email system, informing those at head office that they are all "pooh-pooh heads."

Desk vacation: Stick a paper umbrella in your morning Tim's coffee, position your desk lamp full on, put your feet up and pretend you're in the Caribbean. Tip: For added effect, the annual sales report can be fashioned into a charming sun hat.

The 10K Big Box Dash: Those who work in larger retail stores can work off those Christmas calories and avoid work at the same time. Walk quickly through all store departments holding any item and saying, "Little Timmy will be so glad I found this." A prize goes to the worker who manages to keep this up the longest without a customer daring to try to ask a question.

Wishing all fellow workers a happy Slack Week!

Anne Hines is an author and humour writer. She has written three novels and one collection of nonfiction humour.

Michael de Adder's best of 2009

MICHAEL DE ADDER

Worth mentioning

Alleged plane bomber called a model student

ROMINA MCGUINNESS
Metro World News

The 23-year-old Nigerian man who allegedly attempted to set off a bomb on a Detroit bound airliner Christmas Day was known as an extremely bright, quiet boy.

As a teenager, Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab was a boarding student at the British School of Lome Togo when my father was deputy head. At the time, my mother was Abdulmutallab's French teacher and describes him as "incredibly intelligent and with an enthusiasm that meant he was a pleasure to teach."

She does, however, remember how he used to repeatedly make references to Allah in essays and assignments, something she found disturbing and eventually reported to school authorities.

After being warned by the school that this kind of behaviour would not be tolerated by the London examination boards he immediately stopped. Never once did my parents suspect there could be a darker, more sinister side to Abdulmutallab's behaviour.

Former pupils of the British School Lome have been sending out messages via Facebook, finding it hard to understand how such a model student could turn to such forms of extremism unnoticed.

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Panasonic says it's built a better battery
Panasonic Corp. has developed more powerful batteries for use in everything from laptops to electric vehicles, the Japanese electronics maker said. It said the new lithium-ion batteries are 20 to 30 per cent more powerful than current batteries. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Business

Hawaii out of pineapple business?

Fieldworkers at Hawaii's last major pineapple plantation have picked their last crop after Maui Land and Pineapple Co. shut down its century-old money-losing agricultural operation on Christmas Eve to focus on real estate development. The company is laying off about 285 employees. Hawaii's major pineapple producers have shifted growing operations to countries such as the Philippines, where labour is cheaper. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

CARLOS OSORIO/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Erum Savja, 14, and Arooj Arif, 15, came with their parents to Vaughn Mills Mall at 9 a.m. for boxing day shopping.

Boxing Day sales frenzy

Shoppers scramble for deals

The state of the economy might still be up for debate, but the thousands of people who sought out Boxing Day bargains didn't seem too concerned with economic forecasts or growth projections.

In most parts of Canada, shoppers seemed to leave any remaining economic worries at home and descended on retail outlets with wallets and credit cards at the ready — all in the time-honoured pursuit of a good deal.

A rainy forecast for Toronto didn't seem to have any impact on the size of the crowds — although if the mosh pit-like atmosphere in the downtown Eaton Centre was any indication, it might have driven shoppers inside in greater numbers than usual.

At some of the mall's trendier shops, people waited in cordoned-off lines to get a glimpse at the bargains inside. Some outlets, apparently not content to let their advertising speak for them, had salespeople shout out their discounts outside.

While retail analysts believe Boxing Day will be big for retailers this year, the stores' success will also be tempered by early sales that started in October and a big push toward online shopping. According to an Ipsos-Reid survey, 41 per cent of shoppers said they planned on making some of their Boxing Day purchases over the Internet — a seven point increase over 2008. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Doors closed

- In Atlantic Canada, virtually all of the big box stores in the region were closed on Saturday. Legislation in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, P.E.I., and Newfoundland and Labrador prohibits large retail outlets from opening on Boxing Day.

Loonie ends year up 13 cents on way to parity, experts say

CURRENCY The Canadian dollar is ending the year up 13 cents US or about 16 per cent from where it started 2009 and is apparently headed again toward parity.

Analysts believe that a further weakening of the U.S. dollar, rising interest rates, an improving economy and stronger commodity prices will likely see the currency reach par with its American cousin in 2010 for the first time since mid-2008. "We think it will hit parity, I think by the third quarter of next year," said Sal Guatieri, senior economist at BMO Capital Markets, "and move slightly above, maybe a cent or two above or so."

The loonie hit its lows for the year in early February, the same time stock markets hit bottom. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Business in brief

MARKET OUTLOOK The Toronto stock market looks ready to close out 2009 at or even slightly above its highs for the year after economic data last week strengthened expectations that the U.S. economic recovery is on track. It will be a shortened trading week with the TSX open for business for just three days. New York returns to work today while Canadian markets reopen tomorrow. Both are closed Friday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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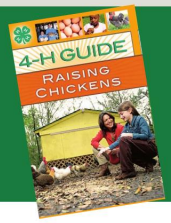
BOXING WEEK HOURS • MONDAY-WEDNESDAY 10-6 • THURSDAY 10-3

Keep the heat in

If you have a wood-burning fireplace or stove, make sure the damper fits tightly and keep it closed when there's nothing burning. Otherwise, huge amounts of heat will pour up the chimney. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Going Green



Raise chickens

This easy-to-use guide introduces beginners to the basics of how to raise chickens. Whether you're a first-time poultry owner, or a future egg farmer, The 4-H Guide to Raising Chickens provides step-by-step instructions for your project. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: BEN.RYCROFT@METRONEWS.CA

Going Green in brief

PACKAGING Concentrated laundry products often use less plastic in the packaging. For example, Ultra Downy fabric softener uses 35 per cent less plastic per bottle than non-concentrated Downy. In the bathroom, Charmin Mega Rolls have more toilet tissue per roll, reducing the number of cardboard cores disposed.

HOT SHOWERS Heating water is one of your community's and your home's biggest energy costs. Shorter showers and low-flow shower heads can reduce its use. So can washing laundry in cold water. Washing with Tide Coldwater gives you great cleaning, and using cold water helps to save energy.

RECYCLE Slim down your waste. When packing a snack, the Recycling Council of Ontario suggests using reusable containers rather than packaging and plastic wrap that become leftovers in the landfill. Choosing products with reduced packaging can also shed pounds from your waste. METRO NEWS SERVICES

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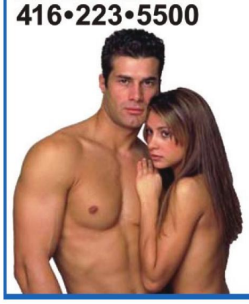
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METRO WORLD NEWS

Mark Boyle spent a year living money-free and is now parlaying that experience into a way of life.

A life without money

One man's quest to leave a consumer society

ROMINA MCGUINNESS
Metro World News

Freeconomy

- Mark Boyle is the founder of the Freeconomy Community (justfortheloveofit.org)

All or nothing?

Imagine a year of self imposed exile from consumer society — life with no money. Mark Boyle has been living in caravan, volunteering on an organic farm, using cuttlefish bone and fennel seeds as toothpaste and blogging on his solar powered laptop.

"I planned everything carefully, so it's not like it came as a shock. I began my life without money on Buy Nothing Day (buynothingday.co.uk). I'm going to use the money from a forthcoming book deal to buy a piece a land where I will set up a Free Community, a place where people can live without money, grow their own food and use up waste food," Boyle said.

Boyle worked for several ethical businesses before realizing that in order to make a difference, he would need to fully understand what it is he was trying to change.

"The jolt came three years ago. I was sitting with a friend, discussing world issues when he said: 'You can campaign all you want, but are you solving something?'"

A typical day involves foraging for nettle leaves to make tea, cooking on a rock stove and working out. Life without cash does takes its toll.

"The hardest thing is the impact on my social life as not having money isn't great for a female partner."

His year without cash officially ended Nov. 28, but Boyle has no intention of stopping.

"My experience has reinforced my belief that I could do it."

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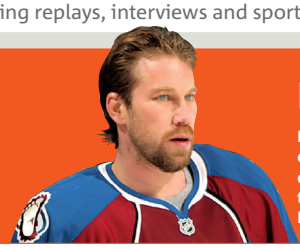
Sports



Forsberg headed to Olympics

Former NHL MVP Peter Forsberg was included yesterday in defending champion Sweden's Olympic squad for the Vancouver Games. The veteran centre, who won two Stanley Cups with the Colorado Avalanche and was the NHL's MVP in 2003, was selected in the 23-man Olympic squad by coach Bengt-Ake Gustafsson. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EDITOR: DON.MCHOULL@METRONEWS.CA

SCOREBOARD

NHL

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

TORONTO 4 Pittsburgh 3
Boston 2 Florida 1
Buffalo 5 St. Louis 3
Chicago 5 Nashville 4
Philadelphia 2 N.Y. Islanders 1
Vancouver at Calgary

NBA

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

TORONTO 102 Detroit 95
Cleveland 108 Houston 83
San Antonio 95 New York 88
Indiana at Miami
Dallas at Denver
Boston at L.A. Clippers

NFL

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Arizona 31 St. Louis 10
Atlanta 31 Buffalo 3
Carolina 41 N.Y. Giants 9
Cincinnati 17 Kansas City 10
Cleveland 23 Oakland 9
Green Bay 48 Seattle 10
Houston 27 Miami 20
New England 35 Jacksonville 7
N.Y. Jets 29 Indianapolis 15
Philadelphia 30 Denver 27
Pittsburgh 23 Baltimore 20
San Francisco 20 Detroit 6
Tampa Bay 20 New Orleans 17 (OT)
Dallas at Washington

HOCKEY

WORLD JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP
YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Sweden 7 Austria 3
U.S. 3 Switzerland 0
Finland 4 Czech Republic 3
Slovakia vs. Latvia

For more scores visit metronews.ca/sports

Raptors win fourth straight

NBA

Pistons 95 Raptors 102

Chris Bosh had 25 points and 16 rebounds to lead the Toronto Raptors to a season-high fourth consecutive win yesterday, a 102-95 victory over Detroit that handed the Pistons their seventh straight loss.

Jarrett Jack added 17 points and five assists for Toronto (15-17), while Andrea Bargnani scored 16 points and Hedo Turkoglu added 14 points with six assists.

Richard Hamilton and Ben Gordon topped the Pistons with 15 points apiece, while Jonas Jerebko and Rodney Stuckey had 14 apiece.

The Raptors led by 19 points at the half, only to see the lead dwindle to just a point with 5:45 left in the game, before Toronto went on a 5-0 run to put the game away.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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NHL Leafs beat Pens

JOHN HELLER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Toronto Maple Leaf Lee Stempniak celebrates his goal with teammate Alexei Ponikarovsky as Pittsburgh Penguins goalie Marc-Andre Fleury watches in background yesterday in Pittsburgh. The Leafs won 4-3.

Sports in brief

NFL New England is back in the playoffs, using a performance worthy of the team of the decade, a 35-7 rout of Jacksonville yesterday. Also returning to the post-season after a one-year absence is Green Bay, which secured an NFC wild-card berth with a 48-10 victory over Seattle.

HOCKEY Jack Campbell turned aside 22 shots as the U.S. remained unbeaten at the world junior hockey championship yesterday with a 3-0 victory over Switzerland. Canada, which beat Latvia 16-0 on Saturday, faces Switzerland today.

SOCCER Cesc Fabregas scored twice before being forced off with a recurrence of a hamstring injury yesterday as Arsenal beat Aston Villa 3-0 to keep the pressure on Manchester United, which stayed second in the Premier League with a 3-1 win at Hull.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

The Hidden Cost of Tickets and Accidents

Your Driving Record Impacts Your Car Insurance Rate

Just How Costly Are Tickets And Accidents?

Between paying fines, insurance deductibles, and other out-of-pocket expenses, most people understand tickets and accidents can be costly. What many people DON'T know is that there is usually another "hidden" cost which is just around the corner. It comes in the form of higher insurance rates. This is because insurance companies look at your driving record and insurance history, including any tickets or accidents you've had, as a key factor in setting their rates. And this is why drivers with cleaner driving records, on average, find they are able to obtain lower insurance rates.

Does This Mean I'm Doomed To Pay A Bundle?

NO! For the driver with tickets and accidents, there is good news and hope of lowering your rate. In fact, there are some drivers with tickets or accidents that are actually paying LESS than similar drivers with clean driving records. Certain insurance companies actually target this type of risk and have competitive rates. The trick is finding those companies – which is easier than you think…if you know where to look.

What's The REAL Secret To Lowering Your Rate?

The simplest and easiest thing you can do to lower your rate right now is to SHOP AROUND. Why? Because the rates charged by different insurance companies to insure the same driver, with the same car, for the same coverage, can vary by hundreds and even thousands of dollars. Take a look at the table below.

The key is finding the one insurance company that can offer the lowest rate available for your driving profile. InsuranceHotline.com offers an independent, unbiased rate comparison from over 30 top insurance companies to find you the lowest rate for your profile and then connects you with a licensed broker or agent who can provide the policy. It is fast, safe and FREE.

Start Saving Your Money Now.

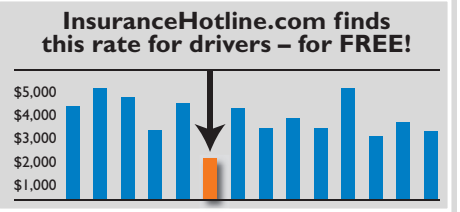
InsuranceHotline.com puts you in the driver seat by making insurance companies compete for your business. Think of it as a one-stop shop for lowering your car insurance rate.

There is never any obligation. You decide if you're interested in the rate provided and whether you want to move your business. So don't waste another minute. Go online to InsuranceHotline.com and start saving now.

Rate Comparison

Driving Record	Lowest Price	Highest Price	Price Difference
Clean Record	$958	$2,213	$1,255
1 Ticket	$1,018	$2,552	$1,534
1 Accident	$1,849	$3,753	$1,904

InsuranceHotline.com
Your search engine for the lowest insurance rates



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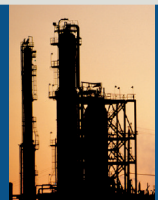
Jobless benefit claims drop

Fewer Canadians claimed jobless benefits in October and the number of new claims continues to fall, more signs the labour market is stabilizing. The number of people receiving regular employment insurance benefits fell 0.5 per cent to 809,600 in October, Statistics Canada said last week. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Workology



Leaving the West

For more than a decade Alberta's resource-rich economy has drawn in hundreds of thousands of job seekers from Saskatchewan, Newfoundland and Labrador and elsewhere. But Statistics Canada's third-quarter population estimate for 2009 shows more people left Alberta seeking jobs than moved in. THE CANADIAN PRESS

EDITOR: DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

Turn recession stress into office success

Expert suggests taking stock of your career during tough times to help inspire new beginnings

RAFAEL BRUSILOW
for Metro Canada

For leaders in difficult times, a little self-reflection can go a long way to making sure one's career is right on track.

Given that managers and other leaders already have plenty of tough decisions to make, taking a moment to assess your own career goals is a crucial step to being a strong leader in the first place.

Career and leadership coach Crystal Campbell says tough times have an upside because they often force people to re-evaluate the most important things in their careers such as their goals, work environment and overall satisfaction with their jobs.

"An economic downturn doesn't necessarily spell doom and gloom. This is often a time when people will stop and reflect about their work. Because it's a difficult time, people need to be flexible and respond accordingly," Campbell said.

Fear can be a powerful force to compel you to action especially if you worry about keeping your job, but it can also keep you in a place you don't really want to be. Most people are too afraid of changing the status quo in their careers because they too often think of success solely as a destination when in fact a great chunk of it lies in the journey itself, Campbell says. Having a clear goal in mind will make it easier avoid pitfalls in your career path that will actually hold you back rather than propel you forward.

PHOTOS.COM

Fear can be a powerful tool to compel you to act during tough times, say leadership experts.

"Be clear on what success looks like for you to help keep you focused on your dreams and get you in the habit of saying 'No,' to anything that would divert you," Campbell said.

Create your own specific definition of success and what it looks like to you: Is the ability to impact a workplace more important to you than higher compensation? Do you like being the lynchpin of output for an employer's business or do you prefer guiding others to succeed? Are you looking for a career that has broader social importance or are you happiest when leading the charge on the newest and greatest consumer product?

Taking stock of all aspects of what you want from your career will make it easier to plan out what you need to do to make it all happen, Campbell says.

"Take a look at your strengths, passions and personal values and tap into what they are to carve out a path for yourself. Look at what would be your optimum work environment and visualize what that would be like and how you can be at your best.

"Focus on the options and possibilities that exist for you and then intentionally move forward," Campbell said.

For leaders just starting out and worried about making the right decisions, Campbell says a sense of compassion can go a long way to giving you confidence in your decisions.

"Younger leaders may never have experienced an economic recession before. Starting from a place of compassion will inform every decision you make with meaning and will help you stay focused," Campbell said.

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Vic Chesnutt dead at 45

Vic Chesnutt, the folk-rocker whose sometimes dark reflections on life were influenced in part by a car wreck that left him paralyzed, has died. He was 45. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Entertainment

Simmons sued

A couple who claimed Gene Simmons attacked them, threatened them and took their video camera has sued the Kiss bassist for unspecified damages. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

weekend box office

Avatar was the No. 1 film at the weekend box office.

1. **Avatar:** $75 million US
2. **Sherlock Holmes:** $65.4 million
3. **Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel:** $50.2 million
4. **It's Complicated:** $22.1 million
5. **Up In The Air:** $11.8 million
6. **The Blind Side:** $11.7 million
7. **The Princess and the Frog:** $8.7 million
8. **Nine:** $5.5 million
9. **Did You Hear About the Morgans:** $5 million
10. **Invictus:** $4.4 million

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Curtain falls on musical

The Sound of Music stars prepare to take final bow

They climbed ev'ry mountain to headline The Sound of Music, and now Elicia MacKenzie and Janna Polzin are preparing to take on the next summit of their careers.

It's been a year and a half since the pair rose from the ranks of relative obscurity to national stardom on the CBC-TV reality competition How Do You Solve a Problem Like Maria? and subsequently as the leads in the Toronto musical The Sound of Music (MacKenzie full-time, Polzin part-time).

Now that the stage show is drawing to a close Jan. 10, both say they'll likely break down when they say So Long, Farewell.

"Things don't hit me until they actually happen, so I think I'm going to be bawling at the time, but right now I'm not thinking of it yet in that way," MacKenzie, 24, of Surrey, B.C., said in a recent interview.

"It just doesn't seem real that I'm not going to be able to be getting up on stage and singing all these songs every night anymore."

MacKenzie has been the primary Maria in the show since it opened to critical acclaim in October 2008, performing in six shows a week and winning a Dora Award. She landed the role of the spirited nun-turned-governess by beating out thousands on the CBC-TV series in July 2008.

Polzin was the runner-up on the TV show, and was later announced as MacKenzie's alternate, performing in two shows a week.

"I just hope I'll be able to control my emotions," said Polzin, 26, who hails from Woodstock, Ont.

"I hope I'll be able to think as the character onstage instead of thinking as Janna: 'Oh God, this is the last time I'm doing this, or the last time I'm going to see this.'"

THE CANADIAN PRESS/HANDOUT/MARVISH PRODUCTIONS

Elicia MacKenzie stars as Maria in the production of The Sound of Music, which is currently playing at the Princess of Wales Theatre in Toronto. The stage show draws to a close on Jan. 10.

MacKenzie, a wide-eyed brunette who has a diploma in performing arts from Capilano College, recalls being "really nervous" and feeling "a lot of pressure" when she first stepped into Maria's pinafore.

These days, she feels like she's come into her own. "There is still that pressure, but I'm a lot more comfortable," she said.

For Polzin, a sprightly blond musical-theatre graduate, the experience has given her a sense of belonging in Toronto's theatre industry. "You hear the cliche, 'You have to wait for your big break,' and I definitely think this was mine."

"Things don't hit me until they actually happen, so I think I'm going to be bawling at the time, but right now I'm not thinking of it yet in that way."
Elicia MacKenzie

Both said they were surprised and saddened when they heard the show would be ending in the new year.

"We were hoping and expecting that it would go a little longer, so it was a little bit of a shock to us all," said MacKenzie.

"I could tell, obviously we weren't filling our seats as well as we did when we first opened, but that kind of comes with the territory," said Polzin. "I am a little upset because it's such a great show that everyone seemed to respond really well to. But the fact of the matter is that people just don't feel comfortable spending the money on theatre right now."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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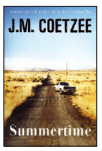
Perry hits the road with Madea
Movie producer and actor Tyler Perry says he is taking his sharp-tongued character Madea back on tour. The first leg of the tour begins Jan. 4 in El Paso, Texas, then goes on to Phoenix, San Diego, Seattle and Portland, Ore. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Canada's history retold

BookPicks



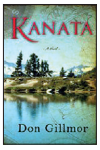
Summertime
Author: J.M. Coetzee
Publisher: Harvil Secker
Price: $32 (Hardcover)

NOBEL PRIZE WINNER and two-time Booker Prize recipient J.M. Coetzee completes his trilogy of fictionalized memoirs with Summertime. Following in the vein he created in Boyhood and Youth, Coetzee uses his own life experiences to craft the events surrounding a central character based on himself. Summertime picks up in mid-1970s Cape Town, the period an English academic is zeroing in on the deceased John Coetzee's life. The novel presents interviews with characters in the fictional Coetzee's life, from the Brazilian dancer mother of one of Coetzee's students to an intimate former flame, exploring whether anyone should even care about the author in death.

Cleaving
Author: Julie Powell
Publisher: Little, Brown & Co.
Price: $29.99 (Hardcover)

IN CLEAVING, THE namesake behind the book and film adaptation Julie and Julia once again lets readers peer into her life from the vantage point of the kitchen counter. This time around Julie Powell embraces butchery, in part as a method to gain the confidence to avoid a tempting lover and keep the waters settled in her relationship with her loving husband. More intimate than Julie and Julia, Cleaving presents a sometimes brutally honest Powell dealing with marital strife in a very public way.

Brian Coulton
for Metro Canada



Kanata
Author: Don Gillmor
Publisher: Viking Canada
Price: $34 (Hardcover)

FROM THE MAGAZINE journalist and author of Canada: A People's History comes Kanata, a fictionalized take on the forming of the nation. The compelling historical read maps the country through Western Canadian half-Native teacher Michael Mountain Horse, a descendent of accomplished English-Canadian cartographer David Thompson. Paired with a detailed sketch of Thompson's life and exploration, Gillmor uses both characters as anchors to bring readers from the birth of a nation through the turn of the 20th century and beyond.

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STUDENT/ SENIOR	$2.00	5 tickets $8.25 10 tickets $16.50	$99.00 /Month	$89.00 /Month	$28.00 /Week
CHILD	75¢	10 tickets $5.50			

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When can I buy TTC tokens, new tickets and new Day Passes?
Tokens, new Student/Senior and Children Tickets, and new Day Passes are on sale January 3, 2010.

What happens to my old tickets and Day Passes? Can I use them?

Additional fare required:			
Effective January 3 to January 31, 2010			
TEMPORARY ADULT TICKET	+25¢	OLD CHILD TICKET	+5¢
OLD STUDENT/SENIOR TICKET	+15¢	OLD DAY PASS – No Additional Fare Required	

You cannot use your old Temporary Adult, old Student/Senior, old Child tickets or old Day Passes after January 31, 2010.

After January 31, 2010, what do I do with my old Temporary Adult Tickets?
Old temporary adult tickets cannot be used.

Can I return my old Temporary Adult Tickets for a refund or exchange?
Old Temporary Adult Tickets cannot be exchanged or refunded at any time.

After January 31, 2010, what do I do with my old Student/Senior/Child Tickets and old Day Passes?
Old TTC Student/Senior/Child Tickets can be returned to the TTC for a refund of their original value. Old Day Passes will not be refunded, but will be exchanged in person only.

TICKET REFUNDS* (Student/Senior/Child ONLY) OR DAY PASS EXCHANGES IN PERSON (Day Passes cannot be refunded)		TICKET REFUNDS* BY MAIL (Student/Senior/Child ONLY)
From January 4, 2010: TTC MDP Office (above Davisville Station) 1900 Yonge Street, Toronto Monday to Friday, 8:30am – 5:00pm	**From February 1 to March 31, 2010:** Bloor-Yonge Station Collector Booth (Bloor Street southside entrance) Monday to Friday, 7:00am – 7:00pm	**From January 4, 2010:** TTC Accounts Payable 1900 Yonge Street Toronto, ON M4S 1Z2 **Old Day Passes Cannot Be Exchanged By Mail**

*Old adult temporary tickets cannot be exchanged or refunded.

www.ttc.ca 416-393-INFO

Musician outraged over song's use

Grammy-winner Jose Feliciano is outraged that the theme from his holiday song Feliz Navidad was used for a musical spoof about undocumented immigrants. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Swift voted entertainer of '09

American newspaper survey crowns 20-year-old country singer in annual poll

It's a love story, baby. Taylor Swift sang those words about a young romance, but they apply just as well to America's feelings for the 20-year-old country singer.

Swift, adding to the heap of awards already bestowed on her, has been voted The Associated Press entertainer of the year. She was chosen by newspaper editors and broadcast producers across the country in a survey of AP members.

"I am so honoured and so excited," Swift said in an interview by phone with the AP. "This was so unexpected, and I could not be more grateful."

Though her second album, Fearless, came out in late 2008, Swift was ubiquitous in 2009.

She found critical acclaim for her autobiographical and infectious songwriting, exemplified in tunes such as Love Story and White Horse. She led a sold-out tour across 52 cities in North America.

She won album of the year from the Country Music Awards and the Country Music Association Awards. She hosted Saturday Night Live and performed at the Grammys. She won five American Music Awards, including artist of the year.

At one point, she had eight songs on the Billboard Hot 100 chart.

Swift said that several nights of her year were "golden and shiny and I'll remember forever." Hosting SNL was one of those.

"That entire week was life-changing, honestly," said Swift. "It makes you feel so thankful to be a part of the music industry, but more than that, to me, SNL, is show business."

Another live show, the MTV Video Music Awards, was more of a mixed blessing for Swift. She was accepting the award for best female video (the first VMA to be given to a country act) when Kanye West stormed the stage and interrupted her speech. West's stunt set off a media storm that perhaps said as much about Swift's popularity (fans and musicians alike came to her defence) than it did about West's.

Among those who voted for Swift for entertainer of the year was Danielle L. Kiracofe, entertainment editor for the Stars and Stripes, the military newspaper.

"In a time of 'made' musicians, she writes her own songs and has her own sparkly style," said Kiracofe. "She's managed to do all of this with grace, class and poise — and without uttering a swear word, dancing on a pole or wearing next to nothing. At the age of 20."

Ellis Widner, style editor for the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, applauded Swift for superseding generational boundaries.

"She defines crossover appeal and would seem to be a strong business model in a declining music business," Widner said. "And to her fans, she's the real deal. On MySpace and in her songs, she wrote what she felt and sang about her experiences."

At year's end, Swift's life is in flux. She'll soon move out from home with her family, making this Christmas an emotional one for her.

She may well have more trophies to haul in, too: In January, she'll be attending the Grammys, where she's nominated for eight awards. She's already begun to look beyond 2009.

"The second that I put out Fearless, the moment that album came out and I was done with it, I started writing for my next album," said Swift. "I love to plan 20 steps ahead of myself."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

This Sept. 13, 2009 file photo shows singer Kanye West taking the microphone from singer Taylor Swift as she accepts the Best Female Video award during the MTV Video Music Awards in New York. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Past winners

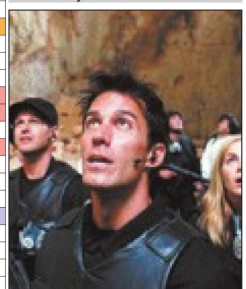
- The Associated Press voted Tina Fey last year's winner and Stephen Colbert was honoured in 2007.

to	Vu	SD	C		7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime 12/28/09	265	353	2	TVO	Time Team (N)		The Best of The Agenda		Midsomer Murders		D-Day to Berlin		Best-Agenda
	211	331	3	GTV	ET Canada	Entertainment	House "The Tyrant"		(9:01) Lie to Me		Holmes in New Orleans		News Hour
	215	343	4	OMN1	Two/Half Men	The Office	Omni News: Italian Edition (N)		Vivere V	Omni News:	Law & Order: Criminal Intent		Metropia
	210	302	6	CBC	Wheel Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Cirque du Soleil: Kooza (HDTV)				CBC News: The National		The Hour
	214	344	7	CITY	Murdoch Mysteries (HDTV)		How I Met	Accidentally	Community	Community	The Jay Leno Show (N)		News
	212	313	8	CTV	Corner Gas	Degrassi: TNG	*In God's Country* (2007, Drama) Kelly Rowan. (DVS)				Peak Season	Peak Season	CTV News
	218	345	11	CHCH	*Bounce* ★★★ (2000, Romance) Gwyneth Paltrow.				*Mighty Aphrodite* ★★★ (1995, Comedy) Woody Allen.				News at 11 (N)
	-	-	14	-	Family Guy	The Simpsons	Omni News: S. Asian Edition		Omni News: Cantonese Edition		Two/Half Men	King	Cold Case
	213	326	15	SUN	The Insider (N)	Music Speaks	*My Neighbor's Keeper* (2007, Drama) Laura Harring.				Steel City Com	Hitchcock Pres	King Kaboom
	-	387	16	CBS	Inside Edition	Access H.	How I Met	Accidentally	Two/Half Men	Big Bang	CSI: Miami (HDTV)		News 4 at 11
	-	385	17	NBC	The Insider (N)	Entertainment	Community	Community	Community	Community	The Jay Leno Show (N)		News
	-	386	18	ABC	Wheel Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	*Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End* ★★ (2007, Adventure) Johnny Depp.						News
	219	346	20	ACH-B	Sue Thomas: F.B.Eye		*Would Be Kings* (2008, Crime Drama) (DVS)				Stargate Atlantis (DVS)		A News
	-	-	28	FOX	Judge Judy	Two/Half Men	House "The Tyrant"		(9:01) Lie to Me		Seinfeld	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons
	-	388	61	PBS	PBS NewsHour	Time Goes By	Antiques Roadshow		American Masters (HDTV) (N)			In the Life	Business Rpt.
	297	652	330	WPX	Two/Half Men	Family Guy	One Tree Hill (HDTV)		Gossip Girl (HDTV)		PIX News at Ten Tong.		Two/Half Men
	296	654	331	SBK	U.S. Senate Debate		Law & Order: SVU		WBZ News (N)	Frasier	The Office	Name Is Earl	Frasier
	298	653	332	TLA	The Tyra Show		According-Jim	Family Guy	KTLA News	KTLA News	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	One Tree Hill (N)
news	502	390	26	NW	The Nature of Things		CBC News: the fifth estate		CBC News: The National		Conspiracy Files		National
	500	500	33	CNN	CNN Tonight (N)		Campbell Brown (N)		Larry King Live (N)		Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)		
	509	504	79	CNB	Kudlow Report (Live)		Cruise Inc.: Big Money		Biography on CNBC		The Bubble Decade		Mad Money
sports	405	417	22	net	Soccercentral	Hockey Spengler Cup: Canada vs. HC Davos.					Sportsnet Connected		Hockey Central
	400	400	30	TSN	That's Hockey!	Monday Night Countdown			NFL Football Minnesota Vikings at Chicago Bears. (HDTV) (Live)				
	411	457	58	OLN	Ghost Hunters		Destination Truth		Operate-Repo	Operate-Repo	Ghost Hunters		Destin. Truth
	417	406	81	SC	Pass Time	Pass Time	SuperCars	SuperCars	Barrett-Jackson		Barrett-Jackson		Car Crazy
family	551	542	25	YTV	Scorpion	Scorpion	Malcolm-Mid.	Malcolm-Mid.	Fresh Prince	Fresh Prince	Family Biz	Prank Patrol	Adrenaline Proj
	554	544	45	TEL	Scooby-Doo	Total Drama	Total Drama	6TEEN	Futurama	King of the Hill	American Dad	Futurama	Robot Chicken
	556	540	51	FAM	Han. Montana	*Hatching Pete* (2009, Comedy)			Wizards-Place	Latest Buzz	Ned's School	Cory in House	That's-Raven
cable variety	602	567	27	W	*My Super Ex-Girlfriend* ★★ (2006, Romance-Comedy)				*Sideways* ★★★ (2004, Comedy-Drama) Paul Giamatti, Virginia Madsen.				
	570	580	29	MM	Secret Life of American Teen		Hotties '09		MuchNews: Top Shockers '09		So You Think You Can Dance		Love Court
	615	520	31	A&E	Criminal Minds (HDTV)		Intervention "Kristen"		Intervention "Amy W."		Hoarders (HDTV) (N)		Hoarders
	700	800	35	TLN	Centrovetrine	Sky TG 24	Scusa Me Ti Chiamo Amore				George Lopez	George Lopez	Lopez Tonight
	571	581	36	MMM	Rock Bottom		VH1 Divas				Entourage	Wild 'n Out	mmtop10.ca
	575	583	38	CMT	Country Music Awards		Reba	Reba	According-Jim	According-Jim	Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Rodeo
	616	521	39	SHO	The Outer Limits		*Destination: Infestation* (2007, Suspense), Jessalyn Gilsig				*Fantastic Four: Rise of the Silver Surfer*		
	620	523	40	BVO	Celia Franca: A Tour de Force		*A Hard Day's Night* ★★★ (1964, Musical Comedy)				The Beatles on Record		Law & Order
	601	562	41	SLC	Rich Bride, Poor Bride		Last 10	10 Pounds	Instant Beauty Pageant		Plastic Makes	Plastic-Perfect	ET Canada
	522	506	43	HIS	Sinking an Aircraft Carrier		Cities of the Underworld		*The Rock* ★★★ (1996, Action) Sean Connery, Nicolas Cage, Ed Harris.				
	625	548	44	COM	Air Farce	22 Minutes	Corner Gas	Name Is Earl	The Simpsons	South Park	Yuk Yuk's Laugh-Off		Daily Show
	600	564	46	H&G	Sarah's House	Sarah's House	Sarah's House	Sarah's House	Sarah's House	Sarah's House	Sarah's House	Sarah's House	Sarah's House
	294	529	47	TBS	Family Guy	Family Guy	House-Payne	House-Payne	Law & Order: SVU		*Hard Rain* ★ (1998, Action), Randy Quaid		
	576	582	49	BET	Family Matters	Family Matters	To Be Announced						Mo'Nique
	627	528	50	SPC	(6:15) *Swarmed* (2005)		(8:10) *Locusts: The 8th Plague* (2005, Science Fiction)				*Razorback* ★★ (1984, Horror), Bill Kerr		
	581	566	52	MTV	MTV Cribs	Teen Cribs	MTV Top 10 x 10 (N)		Teen Mom "Fallout"		Super Sweet	Teen Cribs	MTV Live
	618	524	54	TROP	Extreme Makeover: Home		Extreme Makeover: Home		ET Canada	Comeback	Family Guy	Raymond	Raymond
	603	561	56	FOOD	Chef Abroad	Chef Abroad	Chef Abroad	Chef Abroad	Chef Abroad	Chef Abroad	Chef Abroad	Chef Abroad	Chef Abroad
	261	394	60	V	Murder, She Wrote		Husband & I	Summer Wine	Mystic Women-Middle Ages		*Francis of Assisi* ★★★ (1961, Biography)		
	621	527	63	STR	Look-A-Like	TMZ	The Ellen DeGeneres Show		The View (HDTV)		The Dr. Oz Show (HDTV)		TMZ
	553	546	65	TRE	Backyardigans	Night Garden	Max & Ruby	Franklin	Little Bear	Bucket-Dinos	Babar	Big & Small	Max & Ruby
	526	507	249	VIVA	Cold Case "Ravaged"		Missing "Patient X"		The Closer		Cold Case "Ravaged"		Mediums
	300	601	301	M1	*Inkheart* ★★ (2009, Adventure) Brendan Fraser.				*I Love You, Man* ★★★ (2009, Comedy)			(10:45) *Speed Racer*	
	305	612	306	PIX	*Patriot Games* ★★★ (1992, Suspense) Harrison Ford.				*Finding Forrester* ★★★ (2000, Drama) Sean Connery.				
	520	146	-	DISC	Mayday "Gimli Glider"		Mayday		Mayday "Blown Apart"		Mayday		Mayday
	637	-	-	TVLND	Red Green	Red Green	Fantasy Island		Hart to Hart		Andy Griffith	Phil Silvers	Bizarre
	605	-	-	FASH	First Class All the Way		FashionTele	RAW	Canada's Next Top Model		Story Of Spice Girls.		1st Class Way

critics' corner

Locusts: The 8th Plague

Coincidentally, Dan Cortese TV movies are the seventh plague, so it makes sense that he pops up in this 2005 "original" TV movie that follows the same tired story formula as every other mutant insect thriller you've ever seen. It says a lot that Cortese's maverick hero is named Colt Dutton. Not even the lovely Julie Benz can salvage a movie so cheesy. 9:55 AM on SPC



Community

Jeff signs up for a class thinking it will be an easy A, but the professor has other ideas that will require Jeff to put in a lot of work just to pass. Britta, meanwhile, helps Abed with his long-held dream of studying film in "Introduction to Film." 8 PM on NBC

Accidentally on Purpose

Trying to keep their complicated relationship in perspective, Billie and Zack agree to see other people, but — no real surprise here — Billie finds her pregnancy makes it really difficult for her to make any love connections. Ashley Jensen, Lennon Parham and Grant Show also star in "The Date." 8:30 PM on CBS CITY

American Idol returns in January

PREMIERE American Idol will return next month with a two-night, four-hour premiere featuring auditions in Boston and Atlanta, the Fox network says. The Boston auditions will air Jan. 12 and the Atlanta auditions will air Jan. 13.

Auditions for the ninth season of the popular singing competition will also be held in Chicago; Orlando, Fla.; Dallas; Los Angeles and Denver.

This year's big change: Ellen DeGeneres is replacing Paula Abdul as judge. DeGeneres will join the show in February, after the tryout rounds, Fox says.

Abdul announced she was quitting amid a contract dispute earlier this year.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kenya's Style
Kenya Hunt
Exclusively at metronews.ca/globalstyle

For complete online movie listings, trailers, reviews and tickets, visit: metronews.ca/movies

Kate plus zero
Kate Gosselin filmed a pilot for a new talk show, but high-level executives reportedly shelved the project, deciding the TV mom is too controversial for their airwaves. A source said the show is still being shopped around, but it doesn't stand much of a chance. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Celebrity Buzz

Sheen arrested for domestic assault

IS CHARLIE IN HOT WATER AGAIN? Charlie Sheen spent Christmas behind bars in Aspen, Colo., after his wife, Brooke Mueller, called 911, claiming Sheen had assaulted her, according to TMZ.

Sheen was arrested and placed in police custody, though Mueller reportedly recanted her statement later in the day, claiming she had been drunk when she made the call, and is reportedly now not co-operating with police.

Sheen initially told law enforcement he was just trying to defend himself.

Now, a new report states Sheen has been accused of using a weapon during the alleged domestic assault.

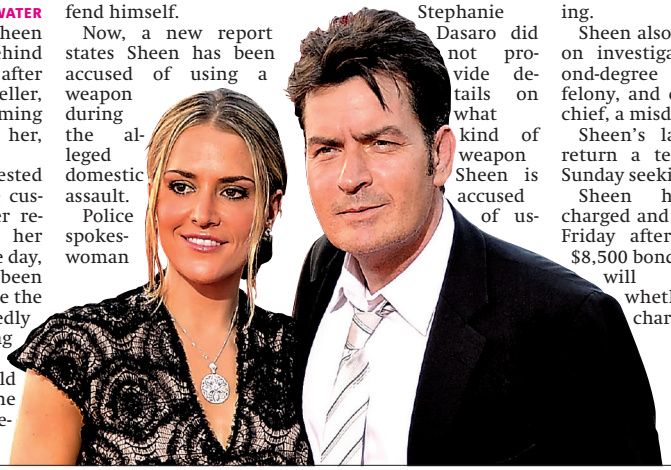
Police spokeswoman Stephanie Dasaro did not provide details on what kind of weapon Sheen is accused of using.

Sheen also was arrested on investigation of second-degree assault, a felony, and criminal mischief, a misdemeanour.

Sheen's lawyer didn't return a telephone call Sunday seeking comment.

Sheen hasn't been charged and was released Friday after posting an $8,500 bond. Prosecutors will determine whether to file charges.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Ivana Trump thrown off flight for 'bad behaviour'

SCREAMING KIDS ON A PLANE? TEAM IVANA! Ivana Trump found herself escorted off an airplane in Florida after some less-than-ladylike behaviour, according to TMZ. Sources say Trump was seated in first class on a grounded aircraft when some rambunctious children began running up and down the aisle screaming. Trump allegedly responded by hurling insults at the kids, and refused to calm down when approached by flight attendants. Police arrived and escorted her off the plane, but she was not arrested or charged for the incident.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sienna and 'soulmate' Jude rekindle romance

DON'T SOULMATES REQUIRE SOULS FIRST? The renewed romance between Jude Law and Sienna Miller seems to be going just fine, according to Page Six, as the actress has reportedly invited Law to jet off to Barbados with her to celebrate her birthday today and his tomorrow. "Jude is keen to spend some of the holidays with his kids, but it's a tempting offer," a source says. "Sienna has always maintained she and Jude are soul mates despite their past troubles."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Pressly made exception to 'no marriage' rule for hubby

GOOGLE HIM. YOU'D MAKE THE EXCEPTION, TOO Actress Jaime Pressly never planned to get married, but tying the knot with entertainment lawyer Simran Singh couldn't have worked out better for the one-time My Name is Earl star.

Pressly explains why getting married four months after meeting her now-husband was the right choice.

People reports that Pressly, 32, says, "Sim is the first person I met that I was confident I would be able to grow old with."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Jolie admits preference for 'open relationships'

IN RELATED NEWS, 300 CHILDREN JUST DECLARED HER THEIR BIOLOGICAL MOTHER Angelina Jolie prefers open relationships, she tells German magazine Das Neue, and thinks they can work as long as both partners agree to it. "Neither Brad (Pitt) nor I have ever claimed that living together means to be chained together. We make sure that we never restrict each other," Jolie tells the magazine. "The sparks fly at home if the nice Brad fails to see that he's wrong and reacts in a defiant way."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Celebrity tweets

Ashton Kutcher weighs in on the Demi Moore magazine scandal, Jonathan Ross is a proud papa, Paris Hilton lives in a winter wonderland, and Ellen DeGeneres gets more than she bargains for at a holiday party.

- @aplusk why is my wife's hip news? fyi I just saw it up close ... there was no retouching
- @wossy My eldest daughter has spent every day except Christmas revising! Am very proud. She clearly gets it from her mother :)
- @ParisHilton Sitting by the fire eating fondue. Yum :)
- @TheEllenShow Accidentally found myself standing under the mistletoe with Regis. It was awkward.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Gosselin's digs robbed, trashed over Christmas

ANTI-CLAUSE The damage to Jon Gosselin's apartment is far worse than thought — according to his attorney. A "butcher knife" wielding maniac sliced and diced the entire place into a million pieces.

Gosselin's attorney tells TMZ that when he entered his Manhattan apartment Saturday afternoon, he found his "shoes, shirts, luggage, bed, curtain, rugs and other furnishings" had been slashed by a "sick perpetrator."

And it doesn't stop there. Reports said Gosselin's television, CD player, coffee maker, a Nintendo Wii game, dishes, pots and pans were taken from his apartment.

Gosselin's attorney also says a Ming vase, believed to be more than 100 years old was "smashed to pieces."

As for the note that was left behind ... it was "speared" to Gosselin's bedroom dresser with a butcher knife.

As TMZ reported, law enforcement sources say Hailey Glassman's name was signed at the bottom of the note — but that doesn't mean she had anything to do with it.

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Today 70% Flurries 0°/ -14°
Tuesday Variable -6° / -7°
Wednesday Partly sunny -2°/ -5°

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Take Five

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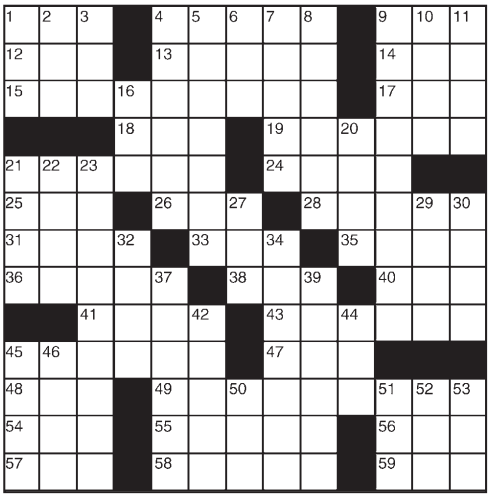


ACROSS

1 Treasure hunt aid
4 Mario Puzo subject
9 College transcript stat
12 Brewery product
13 Attach
14 Yule fuel
15 "Are You Smarter Than a 5th Grader?" aide
17 Exist
18 Tuna at a sushi bar
19 Tickled
21 Supermarket employee
24 Perches
25 With 26-Across, it "will come," in song
26 See 25-Across
28 Made crow noises
31 Colourless
33 Young fellow
35 Arizona tribe
36 Relaxed
38 Energy
40 "— the fields we go"
41 Unkempt one
43 Baryshnikov's field
45 "Its own reward," they say
47 GIs' entertainers
48 Fuss
49 76 trombones?
54 Zodiac sign
55 Uptight
56 Life story, briefly
57 Dine on
58 Remains
59 Gorilla

DOWN

1 Comedian Bernie
2 Every bit
3 Shooter ammo
4 Pulverized
5 Navy bigwig
6 Safe-products org.
7 Teeny bits
8 Weak
9 Insulation material
10 Skin opening
11 On in years
16 Droop
20 Beehive State
21 Foretell
22 Emanation
23 Fundamental
27 Kisser
29 Duel tool
30 Gossip
32 Suspenders alternative
34 "Clair de Lune" composer
37 Reservations
39 Doesn't get an F
42 Jaunty chapeau
44 High-arc shot
45 Crooner Jerry
46 Concept
50 Literary collection
51 "The — Daba Honeymoon"
52 Pinch
53 Female deer

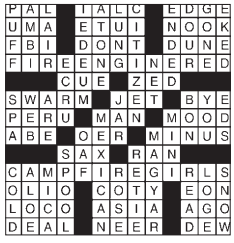
Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone — one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

6		5	8		2	9		4
		3				1		
	7						2	
		4	6		9	3		
3								9
		1	3		8	4		
	5						3	
		9				7		
7		2	4		5	8		6

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:



2	5	4	3	9	1	6	7	8
6	1	8	4	7	5	2	3	9
7	9	3	2	8	6	4	1	5
1	2	6	9	4	3	8	5	7
8	3	5	7	1	2	9	4	6
4	7	9	6	5	8	3	2	1
3	6	7	5	2	9	1	8	4
5	8	2	1	6	4	7	9	3
9	4	1	8	3	7	5	6	2

On the web

For more games and 60 additional daily cartoon strips, visit metronews.ca

Metro Recipe of the Day

Basque-style Cod with Peppers

INGREDIENTS:

2 tbsp (25 mL) olive oil
1 onion, halved and thinly sliced
2 large red peppers, thinly sliced into short strips
2 large green peppers thinly sliced into short strips
2 sprigs of fresh oregano
3 garlic cloves, crushed
14 oz (400 g) large ripe tomatoes, diced
2 oz (60 g) pitted black olives, halved
1 tsp (5 mL) sugar
good pinch of chili powder
1 tbsp (15 mL) wine vinegar
14 oz (400 g) skinless thick Pacific cod fillet
1 oz (30 g) flat-leaf parsley, chopped

METHOD:

1. Heat olive oil in large, deep frying pan. Add onion, peppers, oregano and garlic. Cook, stirring occasionally, five minutes or until vegetables are slightly softened.

2. Add tomatoes and olives to pan with sugar, chili powder and vinegar. Cook over medium-high heat, stirring frequently, three minutes or until tomatoes are slightly softened. Season to taste.

3. Cut cod into four equal portions and add to pan, shuffling down into vegetables. Reduce heat so that vegetables bubble gently. Cover with foil, crumpling it inside rim of pan; cook five minutes. Cod should be firm, succulent and opaque, with flakes that just separate. Sprinkle parsley over fish and vegetables; serve in large pasta bowls.

SERVES 4

rd.ca

For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to rd.ca or check out Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton sallybrompton.com

For Sally's expanded daily and weekend horoscopes, visit metronews.ca

ARIES ♈
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
Intense cosmic activity in the career area of your chart means you should not be waiting for others to tell you what to do.

TAURUS ♉
APRIL 21-MAY 21
You may seem to be reserved by nature, but there is a go-getting side to you that will be much in evidence as the new week begins.

GEMINI ♊
MAY 22-JUNE 21
It seems you can do no wrong at the moment. Both in your personal affairs and in your working environment you are very much the centre of attention.

CANCER ♋
JUNE 22-JULY 22
Someone who is as different from you as chalk is from cheese will catch your eye and make your heart beat faster today.

LEO ♌
JULY 23-AUG 23
Everyone has daydreams, but you seem to be enjoying more than your fair share at the moment.

VIRGO ♍
AUG 24-SEPT 22
Venus is on good terms with Pluto, planet of passion, which means you will be on good terms with just about everyone.

LIBRA ♎
SEPT 23-OCT 23
It's just as well you are an old hand at juggling several commitments at the same time because unexpected tasks will come at you from all directions.

SCORPIO ♏
OCT 24-NOV 22
Someone who has felt the rough edge of your tongue in the past wants their revenge and may get their chance either today or tomorrow.

SAGITTARIUS ♐
NOV 23-DEC 21
According to the planets someone will let you down today, but it could turn out to be a blessing in disguise.

CAPRICORN ♑
DEC 22-JAN 20
With no-nonsense Pluto active in your birth sign today you must be careful what you say, because your words may come across as unnecessarily harsh.

AQUARIUS ♒
JAN 21-FEB 18
You may not be looking forward to the new week, but there are reasons to believe it will be a good one.

PISCES ♓
FEB 19-MARCH 20
Friends and colleagues will help you out in any way they can, but only if you ask them — they're not mind readers after all.

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This day in history

1065: Westminster Abbey is consecrated.
1795: Construction of Yonge Street, the longest street in the world, begins in York, Upper Canada (present-day Toronto, Ontario).
1836: Spain recognizes the independence of Mexico.
1912: The first municipally owned streetcars take to the streets in San Francisco, California.
1945: The United States Congress officially recognizes the Pledge of Allegiance.
1981: The first American test-tube baby, Elizabeth Jordan Carr, is born in Norfolk, Virginia.

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YORKDALE TOYOTA

WANTS TO THANK YOU FOR A GREAT YEAR!

COME IN FOR GREAT YEAR END DEALS!

NEW 2010 Corolla CE MSRP** STARTING FROM $15,260

$1000 CUSTOMER INCENTIVE† PLUS 0% APR† PURCHASE FINANCING FOR 36 MONTHS

LEASE FOR $149‡@2.9% APR per month for 48 months with $1,750 down with $1,000 Customer Incentive applied.

MADE IN CANADA

HWY 5.6L/100 KM (50 MPG)† CITY 7.5L/100 KM (38 MPG)†

Ramil Madarang
General Sales Manager

NEW 2010 Matrix MSRP** STARTING FROM $16,440

$1000 CUSTOMER INCENTIVE† PLUS 0% APR† PURCHASE FINANCING FOR 36 MONTHS

LEASE FOR $149‡@2.9% APR per month for 48 months with $2,500 down with $1,000 Customer Incentive applied.

MADE IN CANADA

HWY 6.2L/100 KM (46 MPG)† CITY 7.8L/100 KM (36 MPG)†

NEW 2010 RAV4

LEASE FOR $259‡@4.9% APR per month for 48 months with $3,621 down.

1.9% APR† PURCHASE FINANCING FOR 36 MONTHS

MSRP** STARTING FROM $24,345

MADE IN CANADA

HWY 6.9L/100 KM (41 MPG)† CITY 9.4L/100 KM (30 MPG)†

ALL-NEW 2009 Venza AWD MSRP** STARTING FROM $30,350

$1000 CUSTOMER INCENTIVE† PLUS 2.9% APR† PURCHASE FINANCING FOR 36 MONTHS

LEASE FOR $329‡@3.9% APR per month for 48 months with $3,375 down with $1,000 Customer Incentive applied.

HWY 7.1L/100 KM (40 MPG)† CITY 10.2L/100 KM (28 MPG)†

best wrap-up ever!

DON'T SHOP TILL YOU DROP - SHOP AT THE TOP, YORKDALE TOYOTA!

Make no payments for 120 days with purchase financing.§

SALE STARTS TODAY 9AM - 9PM

Get complimentary Job Loss Credit Protection with your lease or purchase.◇ zero worries

¥*Limited time finance offers available from Toyota Financial Services on approved credit. License, registration, PPSA, insurance, applicable fees and taxes are extra. MSRP of a new 2010 Corolla (Model BU4ZEMA), 2010 Matrix (Model KU4EEMA) and 2010 RAV4 (Model ZF4DVPA) is $15,260/$16,440/$24,345 plus freight and PDE of $1,320/$1,320/$1,490. Tax for fuel conservation is $75 for Matrix. ¥0%/0%/1.9% finance APR equals $424/$457/$697 per month for 36/36/36 months. Cost of borrowing is $0/$0/$747 for a total obligation of $15,260/$16,440/$25,092. ‡‡2.9%/2.9% lease APR for 48/48 months on a new 2010 Corolla (Model BU4ZEMA) and 2010 Matrix (Model KU4EEMA). When you apply the $1,000/$1,000 Customer Incentive monthly payment is $149/$149 with a $1,750/$2,500 down payment or trade equivalent, and first monthly payment due at lease inception. Total lease obligation is $8,952/$9,650 plus freight and PDE of $1,320/$1,320. Based on a maximum of 96,000/96,000 KMS. Additional KM charge of $.07/$.07 for excess kilometres if applicable. ‡$1,000/$1,000 Customer Incentive offer valid on retail delivery of new 2010 Corolla (Model BU4ZEMA) and 2010 Matrix (Model KU4EEMA) from participating Toyota dealer inventory. ‡‡2.9% lease APR for 48 months on new 2010 RAV4 (Model ZF4DVPA). Maximum of $25 bi-weekly payment deferral available. Bi-weekly payment is $259 with $3,621 down payment or trade equivalent, and first monthly payment due at lease inception. Total lease obligation is $16,053 plus freight and PDE of $1,490. Based on a maximum of 96,000 KMS. Additional KM charge of $.10 for excess kilometres if applicable. §Make No Payments for 120 Days when you purchase finance a new unregistered Toyota vehicle through Toyota Financial Services. Offer applies to approved credit to retail customers who purchase and take delivery by January 4, 2010. The first monthly payment will be deferred for 90 days (until the 120th day of the contract) and finance contracts will be extended accordingly. Interest charges will not accrue during the first 90 days of the contract. After 90 days, interest starts to accrue and the purchaser will repay principal and interest over the term of the contract. ◇Complimentary Job Loss Credit Protection is offered by Toyota Credit Canada Inc. ("Toyota Credit" or "TFS") and available to eligible retail customers who purchase or lease one of the following vehicles through TFS between December 1, 2009 and January 4, 2010: new and demonstrator Corolla, Matrix and RAV4 models. The program provides up to $10,000 in credit protection to consumers who suffer an unexpected job loss during the term of their lease or financing contract, provide proof that they are collecting unemployment benefits and return their vehicle to their Toyota dealer. Excludes charges for excess wear and tear, excess kilometres, unrepaired damages and similar charges. Program only applies to natural persons, over the age of 18, who suffer involuntary Unemployment (as defined in the contract) and who meet the other eligibility criteria. Program does not apply to corporations, companies, associations, self-employed people, seasonal employees, employees of TFS or employees under a fixed term contract. Eligible consumers will be required to make regular monthly payments while their claim is evaluated. Further conditions and limitations apply. For complete details, ask your Toyota dealer. †These estimates are based on the Government of Canada's approved criteria and testing methods. The actual fuel consumption of these vehicles may vary. Refer to the Government of Canada publication EnerGuide Fuel Consumption Guide. All rights are reserved. Dealer may sell/lease for less. Quantities of certain vehicles are limited and dealer trade may be required. Dealer trade availability may also be limited and will vary by model. Offers valid between December 1 and January 4, 2010 and are subject to change without notice. Please see your participating Toyota Dealer for full details.

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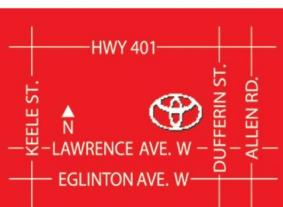
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